UNITED
NATIONS

DP

Governing Council
of the United Nations
Development Programme

Distr.
LIMITED

DP/1992/SCPM/L.11/Add.11
20 May 1992

Original: ENGLISH

STANDING COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME MATTERS
Thirty-ninth session
4-29 May 1992, Geneva

DRAFT REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME MATTERS ON ITS IN-SESSIONAL MEETING HELD DURING THE THIRTY-NINTH SESSION OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL, 4-29 MAY 1992

Rapporteur: Mr Luis ESPADA-PLATET (United States)

Addendum

CHAPTER V. COUNTRY AND INTERCOUNTRY PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS

D. Europe

(continued)

Czech and Slovak Federal Republic

1. The Director of the Division for Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (DEC) presented the fourth country programme for the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic (DP/CP/CZE/4), for which the total resources programmed are the indicative planning figure (IPF) of $2.4 million, and estimated cost-sharing contributions of $10 million.

2. The above resources have been earmarked for six major thematic areas of concentration: (a) restructuring of the economy and support to the private sector; (b) management development, training and human resources development; (c) environmental management; (d) telecommunications development; (e) national statistics; and (f) umbrella activities.

3. Four delegations spoke in favour of this country programme. One delegation expressed satisfaction that the programme took into consideration

the main areas of focus for capacity-building specified in Governing Council decision 90/34 of 23 June 1990. The delegation also urged further coodination among bilateral donors.

4. In response, the Director, DEC, recognized that a shift of emphazis in programme priorities had taken place, and that the criteria to be applied for examining project proposals had also been refined. He mentioned that programme implementation had been slow, but that there had been an interruption for a few years in the recipient status of the country. Furthermore, the lack of a physical presence in the country had not helped project delivery in the past. He agreed to contact other donors and the Government to review what could be done to improve coordination, especially bearing in mind the need for national capacity-building in that area.

5. The Standing Committee recommended that the Governing Council approve the fourth country programme for the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic.

Hungary

6. The Director, DEC, presented the fifth country programme for Hungary (DP/CP/HUN/5). The programme entails a net IPF of $1.8 million, with additional reserves of $10.0 million to be mobilized at a later date. These resources will be oriented towards four main areas of concentration: (a) private sector development; (b) management development; (c) environmental management and information systems; and (d) human development monitoring.

7. The Standing Committee recommended that the Governing Council approve the fifth country programme for Hungary.

Poland

8. The Director, DEC, presented the fifth country programme for Poland, with a net IPF of $3.8 million and estimated cost-sharing and government cash counterpart contributions of $8 million.

9. These resources will be concentrated in the following four programme areas:

(a) Developing human resources and social services through: (i) social safety nets and social market economy; (ii) management education and training; and (iii) administrative capability development;

(b) Developing market-economy institutions through (i) ownership transformations; (ii) ownership responsibility; (iii) entrepreneurship; and (iv) public awareness;

(c) Developing ecological and environment infrastructure through: (i) environmental management and (ii) environmental education;

(d) Umbrella project for the provision of advisory services to facilitate Poland's economic reform.

10. One delegation spoke in support of the Poland country programme, commending it for its priorities and mechanisms, and for the close collaboration between UNDP and the Government in its formulation. He also expressed the need for increased coordination among bilateral donors.

11. The Standing Committee recommended that the Governing Council approve the fifth country programme for Poland.

Regional programme for Europe

12. The Director, DEC, introduced the third regional programme for Europe, with a net IPF of $4.2 million and estimated cost-sharing of $250,000. These resources would be concentrated in the areas of (a) private sector development; (b) environment and energy; and (c) transport and communications.

13. A corrigendum was submitted by the participating countries to replace the last sentence of paragraph 30, page 10, relating to the Turn-around Management Programme (TAM), to read as follows: "Further consultations with respect to the nature and financing of the project shall take place between the Administrator and the participating Governments prior to the launching of the project" (see DP/REV/3/Corr.1).

14. One delegation expressed concern that during the high-level debate some representatives had requested additional information on some of the projects in the regional programme to enable governments and UNDP to make the most effective response to the needs of the region. The delegation recommended that approval of the third regional programme be postponed and that the second country programme be extended for one year.

15. Another delegation referred to its request in the high-level debate for the inclusion of two projects relating to the Trans-European Motorway (TEM) and the Trans-European Railway (TER). The delegation added that the last two words of document DP/REV/3/Corr.1 should be replaced by the words "any project activities".

16. Another delegation mentioned that after further discussions between UNDP and the delegations concerned, satisfactory clarifications had been received on the preparation of the regional programmes. The delegation now supported the regional programme as proposed, provided that: (a) further consultations would take place on follow-up to the TAM proposal and (b) that the new programme would not prejudice fourth cycle projects for which funds had already been allocated and support provided by the participating countries.

17. In the light of the above, and of the clarifications received, the delegation felt that the fifth cycle programme reflected better the many changes in the region and appealed for the withdrawal of the proposal to postpone consideration of the regional programme, otherwise some important regional programme activities would not be able to start on time. Another delegation made a similar appeal.

18. Several delegations urged the maintenance of follow-up studies on the TER and TEM links, particularly the TER in its current approved form.

19. Another delegation considered that the regional programme would provide valuable complementary assistance to that envisaged in country programmes. However, it urged UNDP to provide greater information on project and programme finances, as well as on their results and impact. It also endorsed the idea that UNDP resources should be used as seed money for design and resource mobilization purposes, but felt that they should also be used for implementation.

20. Commenting on the above, the Director, DEC, concluded that there was considerable potential for regional cooperation in a rapidly changing environment. There was also potential for "South-East" cooperation, to complement North-South or South-South cooperation. He reassured delegations that the proposed third regional programme for Europe was the result of extensive consultations with the governments and organizations concerned. There would nevertheless always be scope for adjustment both of priorities and modalities in the course of formulating and implementing individual programmes and projects. He also stated that there would be many cross-linkages between projects, and that particular priority should be placed on using the regional programme to mobilize additional resources.

21. The Standing Committee recommended that the Governing Council approve the third regional programme for Europe.

- - - - -